

Trunklines

SPRING 2011

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization



Lottie



Tarra & Bella

A Winter to Remember : Elephant Update

Winter at the Sanctuary this year did not arrive in a subtle way. Throughout the entire southeast, these past months have been filled with colder than normal temperatures and a substantial amount of snowfall. Although frigid, the blankets of snow do bring with them an amplification of the peace that exists here at the Sanctuary, moments frozen in time, broken only by the motion and peeps of brightly colored birds scrounging for grain beneath the snow. It's that serenity—in these vast spaces that have been given back to nature and the animals that occupy it—that accentuates what a sanctuary this place truly is.

It was during the first part of winter that Dulary gave us a bit of a scare. It is not uncommon for elephants to get a touch of colic. At first, Dulary exhibited slight signs of

abdominal discomfort, and on the first night she only picked at her food. By the next morning she wouldn't eat at all. Her vet team was contacted and treatment was started immediately. The first forty-eight hours for any elephant having serious gastrointestinal issues are filled with an underlying level of anxiety for caregivers, who worry about how serious the condition is going to be. The elephant is monitored throughout the night in case anything is needed. Because of an elephant's massive size, what is readily available in veterinary medicine for smaller animals—including common diagnostic tools like dye studies, X-rays, or ultrasounds—are not options we have. We are forced to rely more on our instincts with careful monitoring, looking for even the smallest signs that something is "off."

...continued on page 3

the Elephant Sanctuary® in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization

The Elephant Sanctuary is accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries (GFAS), and is Licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

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Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's largest natural-habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered elephants. It operates on 2,700 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

The Elephant Sanctuary exists for two reasons:

- ◇ To provide a haven for old, sick, or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures, hardwood forests, spring-fed ponds, and heated barns for cold winter nights.
- ◇ To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent, and endangered creatures.

To learn more about The Elephant Sanctuary and all of the resident elephants, visit:

www.elephants.com

Message from Rob



My Dear Friends,

I am writing this while looking out at the snow and icicles of my first Tennessee winter. It seems like yesterday that I arrived, and yet already there is much to report. This spring edition of *Trunklines* touches on some of our most interesting stories and successes.

We celebrate Sissy, marveling at how far she's come under the Sanctuary's care, and with sadness—as well as happiness—remember Lottie, who died this past October. We give you a much-anticipated update on our Elecams project, and re-live some of our exciting recent events at the Education Gallery.

Turning briefly from our Tennessee residents and toward their relatives in India, *Trunklines* brings you an update from a Sanctuary-supported project that tackles the threats facing wild elephants, and another project that provides care for captive elephants.

There's exciting news from the barns, where our caregivers and elephants are working together on a new healthcare project. Finally, we thank our donors who have made everything possible.

The weather is the only thing cold about my introduction to the Sanctuary; my welcome could not have been warmer. I am continually reminded of how much we at the Sanctuary have in common. No matter what our roles are or where we have come from, every one of us is united by a common drive to care for the elephants. We are all here to give them the peace and dignity they deserve—that purpose is intact and always will be.

For helping us do what we do, I thank and salute you.

Rob Atkinson
CEO



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Winter to Remember : Elephant Update... (cont.)



Dulary & Misty

Soon after her sudden appetite loss, Dulary stopped drinking water, so replenishing her fluids became necessary. With Dulary's remarkable cooperation, catheters were inserted into her ear veins and she received warm IV fluids several times a day. In addition to this regular hydration procedure, we also gave her enemas to help soften her stools. Despite her treatments and meds to alleviate abdominal pain, we could tell when the stomach cramping seemed a bit much. When these bouts of pain came on, Dulary would suddenly become momentarily pushy with Misty. Each time, Misty accepted the lashing out without retaliation, supporting her best friend in one of the few ways she could. Misty's heart is as big as they come, so it was no surprise she continued to accept Dulary's mood swings with instant forgiveness.

After about a week, we were relieved to see Dulary's appetite gradually return, as well as her desire to drink, and when she was finally deemed "out of the woods," her vet team gave the go-ahead to cease her IV fluids. Dulary apparently came to that same conclusion and pulled out her catheter for us that afternoon. After several weeks of treatment, life returned to normal for both Dulary and Misty—napping in the winter sun together again, and coming back to the barn coated in several inches of mud.

Shirley, who will be sixty-three years old this year, continues to do well, not only as an elephant in her senior years, but



Shirley

also with the physical handicaps she has borne throughout most of her life. It's been over forty years since she was attacked by another circus elephant and suffered a severely broken back leg. For reasons we don't understand, it was never treated, leaving her crippled for life.

Because Shirley's entire hindquarters must be supported by the weight of just one back leg, we know that having the chance to lie down and give her limbs a rest is a necessity. Whenever the weather allows, she heads outdoors to lie down for a nap in the sun as soon as she is finished with her morning hay. In the barn, the poured rubber flooring and sawdust aid in relieving some of the pressure, but they cannot compare to the soft beds of leaves and pine needles and cushioned, soggy earth.

Our stoic elder shows no signs of slowing down, and it seems Tarra, as always, is helping her stay young. Spending hours in the barn during the cold always leaves Tarra with some energy to burn and we often find her trying to engage Shirley, backing up with her rear in Shirley's face, lifting her back feet at her and if that doesn't work, sticking her tail right in Shirley's mouth! During the times when Shirley isn't in a playful mood, Tarra always has Bella who can be found dancing around her heels barking and sharing in Tarra's contagious enthusiasm.



Sissy & Winkie

Sissy and Winkie have been venturing out into the chilly weather more frequently than last year, but like clockwork, Sissy is always ready to come back to the barn as soon as the sun gives hints of setting. With Winkie close behind, they head straight to their usual stalls to see what toys and treats await them. Sissy clears the river cane and bamboo first, grabs a couple of mouthfuls of hay, and then proceeds to roll the large enrichment ball (which also dispenses popcorn) around on the floor. Winkie goes straight for the hanging barrel, alternating between gentle turns, lifting and shoving to get the treats out.

This is the time of year that we keep special watch for signs of Winkie's darker moods. Spending extended time in the barn due to subfreezing temperatures, and not being able to explore the habitat, can have a noticeable effect on all

Winter to Remember : Elephant Update... (cont.)

the Girls, but it seems to affect Winkie's disposition more deeply. We have been relieved to see that she has done really well this winter, only needing a quiet moment or two to herself, periodically moving off to the side to ground herself before rejoining her sisters. Winkie particularly enjoys the sunny mornings and always greets them with "ooohs" and trunk taps the minute the sun graces her skin.

Much like their Asian cousins, Tange and Flora prefer to remain in their warm barn when the temperatures drop. Finding indoor enrichment for African elephants to help pass the time is a challenge. Over the years they have proudly "tested" every type of enrichment toy given to them and reduced them to dust, even when we were sure they could not be destroyed. This winter we have been bringing the habitat to them, dragging giant limbs and trees with root balls into their stalls. This allows them to channel their energy dismantling and eating the natural browse.

After spending the night indoors, Tange and Flora make playing and exploring their terrain a high priority when the weather allows them to go out. Even though the trees dropped their leaves months ago, there is still plenty that these two elephants find to eat in the valleys. On the warmer days, they spend hours pushing over trees and eating the bark and upper limbs, as well as grazing on the many different species of plants and grasses that are still edible in the winter.

Flora continues on her path of personal growth. She appears softer and more trusting of those around her and is not taking her emotions out on the fencing and gates like she used to. Tange, who is generally more easy going and playful, continues to accommodate Flora when she has



Tange & Flora



Billie & Frieda

her moments of frustration or needs her space, allowing her to assert her dominance in smaller, more subtle ways. Increasingly over the past year, we have noticed these two are choosing to spend more time together. We see evidence of this evolving relationship during their play times, and Flora is more often the elephant down on her side rolling around in the mud with Tange interacting in a position above her. They appear much more relaxed in each other's company.



Debbie



Ronnie

At the Phase II Barn, winter means Debbie and Ronnie are reluctant to go outside—especially Debbie. If left on their own, they are content to stay inside, even if the sun is beckoning and the outside temperatures appeal to the rest of the elephants. On those days, it is sometimes only with treats and invitations that they will venture out. Debbie is always the first to return to the barn, and since Ronnie likes to go where Debbie goes, she follows.

Keeping Minnie content in the winter is particularly challenging. Cold weather does not bother her in the slightest, and she is famous for going swimming in thirty degree temperatures. She will break the ice on the pond's surface to get in, gleefully splashing around while the rest of us shiver just watching her. Minnie is such a perpetual ball of energy, it's no surprise that she gets "cabin fever" very easily when the most frigid temperatures



Minnie

force us to close the barn doors. To express her displeasure, she will sometimes toss trunkfuls of hay and shavings at passing caregivers. We can only nod in sympathy, and vow to open her door again the moment the temperature reaches a level that would not endanger her to frostbite.

Lizzie's TB treatments continue with a slow but steady progress. Several complications along the way, related to side effects from the drug therapy, have caused us some concern; her diminished appetite has led to weight loss and energy depletion. Each day we take another tenuous step toward our goal, which is to remove the disease from her body, and each day Lizzie takes another step towards a full recovery. A few more squeaks and rumbles, a little more hay, a palate awaiting grain and produce, a little extra skip in her step... and we're starting to see a little belly reemerge as her weight begins, pound by pound, to increase.

Because her TB treatment isn't Liz's favorite part of the day (and who does enjoy taking their medicine?), Billie senses Lizzie's resistance and sometimes decides to try to use her ample frame to block the doorway between Lizzie and her treatment chute. Billie is extremely protective of Liz and Frieda, and we have to take a little extra time to reassure Billie that everything is okay. Billie's protective nature can cause a few hiccups in the day, but what a joyous sight to see her embrace her role in their little family of three.

Recently, Liz gave us a wonderful reminder of her enduring spirit. As temperatures warmed during a mid-winter, spring-like day, she took the opportunity to venture out farther

than usual from the Phase I barn and yard. She went up the hill, way past Billie's favorite spot, and caregivers watched her explore this territory, pushing and bending trees. She appeared to welcome the caregivers' company when they followed to check on her, and she was suddenly her old self again, following like a puppy dog with her mouth wide open and presenting her tongue, which is Liz's way of soliciting her caregiver to scratch and pet her. The fun was enough to convince Billie and Frieda to come up the hill, too, and together they all dug for roots and snacked on vines they picked from the trees.



Lizzie

This moment reminded us of how eager we are to close a final chapter in Lizzie's TB treatment. With all of the ups and downs, we still do not know how much longer it will take to complete the prescribed treatments and for her vet team to give her a clean bill of health—but we all look forward to having the old spunky and spry Lizzie back all the time. ♦

Winter Wonderland?

Over the years we've praised Middle Tennessee winters, where early December cold and rainy days were typically broken up with a few sunny days and the occasional light snow that would amount to less than one inch. Clear skies would return in January, dropping the nighttime lows, but with bright sunny days, allowing the Girls to bask in the radiance outside. February would usually fluctuate between cold and dramatically warm extremes, letting us know that spring was just around the corner.

However, both this winter and last have challenged the climate norm. February of 2010 brought four consecutive weeks of brutally cold weather (well, brutal for us) with snow, ice and a high temperature of only 34 degrees, preventing the elephants from wandering around the hillsides. This year, we have not had the sustained frigid temperatures, but Mother Nature has turned our habitats into a winter wonderland with record snowfall.

During these times when the elephants must stay indoors, we are challenged to keep them entertained without adding extra winter bulk to their bellies. Periodically some of the elephants let us know when we are falling a little short with their

pampering. When it comes to gentle persuasion, nobody is more skilled than Flora. Spying through the office window from her stall, Flora waits for a caregiver to sit at the computer. At the right moment, Flora will pick up a small stick to toss at the window with skilled precision. Knowing this will get our attention, Flora quickly puts on the most adorable expression of innocence—a charm that often works!

The caregivers in the Asian barns also add extra enrichment toys, some to scratch and play with, and others filled with fresh popcorn the elephants work out of small openings for a tasty treat. A special thanks to one supporter who purchased more than \$2000 worth of barn toys posted on our wish list recently.

While scientists try to determine if this weather is global climate change or just an anomaly, we would surely prefer to have our usual Tennessee winters back again. While the snow is beautiful, we miss the "normal" 3 to 5 days annual maximum of having to keep the elephants inside the barn. In the meantime, our Girls will continue to make the best out of the life we can offer them, just as their ancestors have done before them, taking it all in stride.

Scott Blais, Director of Operations

News from Downtown

Sanctuary staff and the Friends Council hosted a public reception in December at the downtown Welcome Center celebrating the release of the Sanctuary's 2011 Calendar, which features new photographs of Sanctuary elephants. All photographs were taken by the caregivers throughout 2010 and then edited for the calendar by award-winning photographer and Sanctuary supporter Nancy Rhoda. December also provided the community with the first viewing of a photography exhibition of large format photos of all the elephants in the Welcome Center gallery. This exhibition continues through April 2011.

Starting in January, in addition to the photography exhibition, the Welcome Center's monthly programs have featured a current Sanctuary resident. January was devoted to Debbie, one of the Sanctuary's largest Asian elephants. Throughout the month, visitors were invited to view videos of Debbie and learn about how she was captured and brought to the U.S. at a young age to work in a circus and came to the Sanctuary at age thirty-five. A special program was presented during the month by her caregiver Ashleigh, who shared stories about her day-to-day life caring for Debbie.



Calendar photo display in Welcome Center



Ashleigh's presentation on Debbie

February featured Ronnie, who arrived at the Sanctuary in 2006 at age forty after a lifetime of performing. Winkie and Sissy will be the focus at the Welcome Center in March. There will be videos, photographs and, pending completion of the new camera network, the introduction of live views of the elephants via the new Elecams in the habitat. An informal program with a caregiver is planned for Saturday, March 19 at 1 p.m. We hope some of you can join us.

The Elephant Sanctuary Welcome Center is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and every third Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other times are available by appointment. For more information, please call Lorenda at 931.796.6500 ext. 105. 💎

A Supporter's 'Ele' Christmas



Betty McAlister (center, front row) with her three children, their spouses, and grandchildren wearing their elephant T-shirts on Christmas day.

Like many grandmothers in early December, Betty McAlister was trying to decide what to buy her children and grandchildren for Christmas. During one of her frequent visits to the Sanctuary's website, Betty noticed an end-of-year sale on T-shirts. She jumped at the opportunity to simultaneously support the Sanctuary and further enlighten her family about elephants.

"Everyone was surprised and excited on Christmas morning when they opened the shirts. We had a white Christmas and

all thirteen of them, from my youngest grandchild, who's nineteen, to my oldest child, fifty-four, went outside and played in the snow in their elephant shirts!" Betty explained.

Betty has a passion for educating others about elephant welfare and regularly shares her fondness for them and the Sanctuary with her friends and family. "A lot of people don't know about this place until you start talking about it, and then they really get interested—and who wouldn't be interested?" Betty says the more she learns about elephants, the Sanctuary, and the dedicated caregivers, the more she's inspired to spread the word. A fascination with the Sanctuary first developed when Betty read a newspaper article about the organization and its sole resident at the time, Tarra. Ever since, she has continued to explore the website, read *Trunklines* and watch the Elecam.

"I love when I catch elephants wallowing around in the mud, doing something fun, or just being their normal, social selves. It's really intriguing how intelligent they are."


In addition to Christmas, Betty uses the gift shop for birthdays and other occasions to purchase items like honorariums, stationery and "feed an elephant for a day." Like many of our devoted supporters, Betty continues to inform friends, old and new, about the Sanctuary. 💎

International Elephant News : Helping elephants in India

The Sanctuary cares about all elephants that need aid. While our Sanctuary elephants are our primary responsibility, we consider it our duty to help other elephants where we can. That's why for nine years we have supported the work of Dr. Amirtharaj Christy Williams in India. Dr. Williams coordinates two projects in which the Sanctuary is involved.

With our co-sponsor, Operation Eye of the Tiger-India, we fund a project studying the population structure of elephants in Rajaji-Corbett National Parks. The project helps inform park management about the need to establish better protection efforts.

The second project the Sanctuary supports, in conjunction with The Dolphin Foundation in India, is the Captive Elephant Healthcare Program. In 2001, the Indian government banned logging, leaving about 1,700 captive elephants in northeast India suddenly jobless and in declining health. Dr. Williams approached the Sanctuary about helping him and his team administer free healthcare to these elephants. As a result of this joint effort, some 200-300 elephants receive treatment each year.

To learn more about the Sanctuary's involvement with elephants in India visit www.elephants.com/medicalAssistance.php. 



Rajaji-Corbett National Parks

Delivering Elephant Healthcare Safely

With the sun on their backs, 2,700 acres of grass beneath their feet, quality food, caring veterinarians and devoted, skillful caregivers—our elephants have all that is needed for great health and long, happy lives. Well, almost all...


In everything we do, we want to make sure the Sanctuary provides what is best for the elephants. That's why, in addition to utilizing our fifteen-plus years of experience with humane elephant handling, we also ask for the views of experts from outside the Sanctuary. Inviting and listening to different perspectives and expertise allows us the opportunity to take best practices and implement them for the benefit of our elephants.



In protected contact, Samantha and Ronnie practice some voluntary training exercises for use in routine healthcare procedures.

With this in mind, we recently invited Margaret Whittaker from Active Environments to help our caregivers learn more about developing safe, humane elephant interactions. In January, Margaret worked with the Quarantine Barn staff and its six residents to explore the latest techniques in Protected Contact (PC) elephant care.

In PC care, caregivers stand behind a barrier, and work with the elephants using humane training techniques to encourage the elephants to cooperate in their own healthcare. Using protected contact, the elephants can choose to come and go as they wish and no negative reinforcement or physical punishment of any sort is utilized. Only positive means are used to train healthcare behaviors, such as presenting feet for care, or an ear so essential blood samples can be drawn to test for disease. If the caregiver doesn't make it worth the elephant's time to cooperate—through kindness, treats and welcome attention—then the elephant can choose to walk away.

Our work with Active Environments is going well and is rewarding for the elephants and caregivers. We are delighted to be receiving this additional training that is boosting active and safe engagement with the elephants, helping the caregivers to develop professionally and the Girls to receive even better care. Stay tuned to the website for updates! 

Lottie

1963 ~ October 10, 2010

Although it happened last October, Lottie's absence can still take us by surprise. Gathering up food bins to prepare diets, Q-Barn caregivers will suddenly notice there are only six bins, not seven. Minnie's large personality fills the barn with such a presence, that some days it's easy to forget that she's alone in her two stalls.

On the morning of October 10, Q-Barn caregiver Samantha was making her routine morning rounds on the 4-wheeler with breakfast in tow. Lottie and Minnie had been spending their days and nights in the far reaches of their habitat. Samantha came upon Minnie in Field 6, which usually meant Lottie was somewhere nearby. While criss-crossing the back fields, checking all of Lottie's normal hangouts and favorite spots, Samantha kept an eye on Minnie, too, hoping that she would begin to call for her best friend with loud rumbles and bellows. But this time was different. When Minnie finished eating, she turned and headed back in the direction of the barn, meeting up with Debbie and Ronnie at one of the new watering stations. Sensing something was not right, more caregivers were immediately dispatched to join an all-out search for Lottie.

After going back and forth over areas already checked, Scott finally spotted Lottie on the edge of a treeline in some brushy growth under a cedar tree—the same one we often found Delhi napping under. But when he got closer, he could see Lottie was not sleeping—she was lying in an abnormal position with no sign of breath. Prior to this, Lottie had not given us any indication she was even ill. She had a healthy appetite and good energy the night before at evening feed. It simply appeared as if Lottie had suddenly collapsed and passed in an instant. At that moment, the only thing that could comfort us in our shock and grief was the final expression on Lottie's face; there was a peace beyond words.

For her caregivers, the days that followed now mesh together



Lottie and her best friend Minnie

in a blur of events. Powerful grief mingled with an equally powerful sense of community, as caregivers from the other habitats arrived to help move her body in preparation for necropsy and burial.

The team of pathologists from the University of Georgia that we use to perform necropsies is remarkable. The respect they give our elephants is always comforting during such a painful time, and their time with Lottie was no exception. At the time of this writing, we still do not have the complete results. This can sometimes take six months or longer. Right now, it is only clear that Lottie passed quickly and peacefully.

Lottie had such a soft, gentle presence—along with what her caregivers describe as “outrageously long eyelashes.” She was Minnie's foil, generating calmness to balance Minnie's wild abandon. When Minnie's antics created chaos, Lottie would just stand back on the outskirts, watching calmly as caregivers tried to remedy the situation.

Whenever we lose an elephant, one of the hardest things to do is to witness the grief of its elephant family. Knowing how close the bond was between Lottie and Minnie, we all braced ourselves. At first, Minnie seemed to stay closer to the barn, not venturing deep into the pastures where she and Lottie liked to go. Caregivers gave Minnie as much comfort as she would allow, sometimes sitting with her for an hour or so in the habitat, simply letting her know that they were there for her. If Minnie made it clear that she wanted to be alone, we would respect her wish. This grieving process was hers, and we did not want to intrude.

About a month later, Minnie started going back out to pasture and utilizing all of her acreage again, but with a few exceptions. Minnie very rarely goes by herself back to



To Lottie

May you find the peace that wasn't always yours on this earth.

May you feel the love of those who have gone before you and of those left behind.

May you be welcomed and embraced by the many trunks of your ancestors.

May they pull you close and call you by the name that they chose for you, before you were born.

May you see those who have mourned you from the day you were taken from them, and are now filled with immeasurable joy at your return to them.

May you feel the fullness of your family as it encircles you back in.

~ Ashleigh, Q-Barn Caregiver



Field 7 where Lottie is buried. We also have not seen her at the pond next to the Elecarn tower—a spot she and Lottie used to frequent in the summer. Perhaps she is not avoiding these areas, and that they were just places that Lottie wanted to go—or perhaps without Lottie, Minnie simply has no interest in these areas. Only Minnie knows for certain.

Following Lottie's death, Minnie continued to socialize with Ronnie and Debbie over the fence, a necessary barrier since she has a tendency to be too rough with them. In December, we decided to test their relationship and allow them some time together on the same side of the fence. We opened some gates to let them come together in the same pasture, and for the first couple of days, things among the three elephants went

beautifully—particularly the interactions between Ronnie and Minnie. On the third day, however, Minnie's nature got the best of her, and she became too rough for Debbie and Ronnie again. We will try again later in hopes that Minnie can eventually learn to be with her companions on a more consistent basis. But we were immensely proud of Minnie's progress, and the way she handled Lottie's passing.

With time, we know reminders of Lottie's absence will not catch us by surprise anymore, and instead her memories will bring a smile. Lottie was a beautiful soul, and we count ourselves lucky to have known her. ♦



Minnie, Debbie and Ronnie

The Power of Ten

Lottie died on 10/10/10. She was the 10th elephant to pass away at the Sanctuary. In our 2010 calendar, Lottie's photo is featured in the 10th month.

"The concept of randomness and coincidence will be obsolete when people can finally define a formulation of patterned interaction between all things within the universe." ~ Toba Beta

Sissy: Then & Now



Sissy at El Paso Zoo, January 2000

THEN:

- Sissy was born in Thailand in 1968.
- In 1969 she was sold to the Frank Buck Zoo in Gainesville, TX as their only elephant and renamed “Gerry II” by the Zoo in honor of her predecessor.
- In 1981 she was swept away in a flood and survived by holding onto a tree limb for over 24 hours. This traumatic experience resulted in a profound fear of water—so much so that she would only trust one keeper to bathe her.
- In 1986 Sissy was sent to the Fort Worth Zoo for breeding, but after two years she never successfully bred. In addition, she was reportedly aggressive towards keepers and did not relate well to other elephants.
- In 1988 Sissy returned to the Frank Buck Zoo, where 10 years later she was labeled as a “killer” after a keeper was found dead in her enclosure.
- In 1998 she was donated to the Houston Zoo as a temporary home.
- In 1999 Sissy moved to El Paso Zoo, even though their protected-contact facilities were not complete. During an endoscopic procedure, Sissy lost mobility of her trunk and had to be hand-fed for four months.
- In December of 1999, after a “training session” video surfaced that showed Sissy being beaten by keepers, the El Paso City Council with the support of the mayor, voted unanimously to retire her to the Elephant Sanctuary.
- On January 26, 2000 Sissy arrived at The Elephant Sanctuary.



Sissy at the lake, spring 2010

NOW:

- Sissy has overcome her fear of water, bravely crossing a creek shortly after her arrival. She swims in the pond with Winkie almost every day now, and even ran and played in the 2010 flash flood waters.
- She has assimilated into the herd quite nicely. After an easy and gentle introduction from Barbara, Sissy took Winkie under her wing the moment she arrived and they have been together ever since. Now Sissy relishes the time she spends with all her sisters and they love their time with her.
- She began to gain weight rapidly upon arrival, and, despite her trunk paralysis, became quite adept at feeding. In 2009, she mastered the art of getting water into her mouth from her trunk—turning down the hose and watering herself instead.
- She has lost the need for her security blanket—“Tire”. She kept a tire at the zoo, and for many years also carried one around the Sanctuary wherever she went. In 2009, she started leaving it behind for longer periods of time. Last spring, she left her Tire at the bottom of a hill near the lake and has not been seen with one since.
- Sissy has shown herself to be extremely cooperative and soft when it comes to her caregivers. She will follow you anywhere and do anything for an ear of corn and a song.
- She has developed a fondness for barley as her favorite food, and will pass over a bucket of produce for a small pile of grain any day.

Ways You Can Help the Sanctuary



You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like: in your own name or in honor or memory of a friend or family member. Contributions may be made on a one-time basis or once a month for as long as you specify.

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donations to any of the programs below are tax deductible.

Use the form on the enclosed envelope to provide information and indicate which giving program you have chosen. Be sure to include the name and address for any "In Honor" gifts so we can send the honoree(s) a certificate and *Trunklines*.

Membership

Choose your level and become part of the nation's largest natural-habitat sanctuary for old, sick, and needy elephants retired from circuses and zoos. Members receive a certificate and subscription to *Trunklines* for a year. Give a membership as a gift and you also receive an elephants.com sticker for your window.

Donor Society

_____	\$10,000+	Founder
_____	\$5,000-\$9,999	Benefactor
_____	\$1,000-\$4,999	Patron
_____	\$500-\$999	Sustainer
_____	\$100-\$499	Supporter



Friends

_____	\$75	Associate
_____	\$50	Family
_____	\$30	Individual
_____	\$10	Elder/Student

Feed for a Day

Tarra, Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Tange, Flora, Misty, Billie, Debbie, Frieda, Liz, Minnie, Ronnie and Dulary eat a lot of food! You can help by feeding any or all of them for a day, a week, or...\$30 feeds one elephant for one day.



Just tell us which elephant you'd like to feed and how often. You will receive an acknowledgment of your gift and a copy of the bio of the elephant(s) you fed.

You may contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor of a friend or family member. Contributions can be made all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

\$30 x _____ (# of days) x _____ (# of elephants) = \$_____

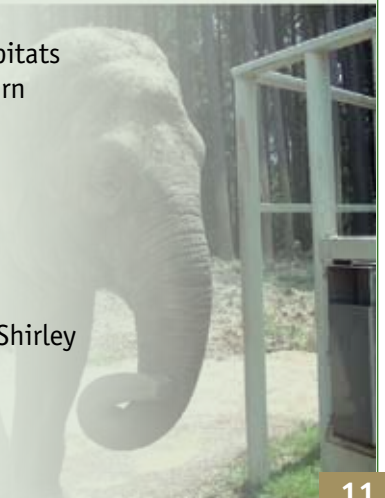
Name of Elephant _____

Wish List

On the website, The Elephant Sanctuary maintains a wish list that is ever-changing to meet the needs of the elephants in our care. You can help by underwriting a specific item. Please go to elephants.com and select "You Can Help" from the main menu and choose "Wish List," or contact lorenda@elephants.com.

At press time, here's just a sample of some items needed:

Automatic Waterers
for elephants in the habitats
Automated Gates for Q-Barn
Bug Repellent Spray
Portable Generators
Respirator Masks
Vitamin E
Peanut Butter
Cranberries
Red Cell Supplements for Shirley
Probiotics Gel for Frieda
Wal-Mart Gift Cards
Tractor Supply Gift Cards



Elephant Sanctuary Merchandise

Use the order form envelope inside this newsletter or shop online at: www.elephants.com/estore

Sanctuary Clothing

Tan T-Shirt with Green Logo - \$15.00

Adult ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) Youth ☐ (L) ☐ (XXL) \$17 ☐ (XXXL) \$17

Blue T-Shirt with White Logo on Chest - \$15.00

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$17

Elephants.com T-Shirt - \$15.00

Our new sand colored tee features an artistic grayscale image of Tange and our website address in green.

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)
Youth ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L)

NEW!

All proceeds benefit The Girls!

"I'm a Friend" Embroidered Polo Shirts - \$30.00

Available in stone or blueberry in women's sizes and bark for men. Traditional relaxed look. 7oz. 100% ring-spun combed cotton, heavy-weight pique preshrunk.

Color ☐ (Stone) ☐ (Blueberry) ☐ (Bark--Men's)
Size ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)

Zippered Hoodie Sweatshirts - \$40.00

(Larger sizes \$42 where noted) Stay warm in these new hoodies by Port & Company with a multi-colored Sanctuary logo embroidered on the chest. Two-ply hood. Set-in sleeve. 9 oz. 50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly fleece.

Gray w/Color Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$42 ☐ (XXXL) \$42

Royal Blue w/Color Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$42 ☐ (XXXL) \$42

Logo Sweatshirts - \$20.00

(Larger sizes \$22 where noted) Super-comfortable Sanctuary sweatshirts from Gildan Active-wear in Heavy Weight Blend 50/50.

Green w/White Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$22 ☐ (XXXL) \$22

Grey w/Blue Logo

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) \$22 ☐ (XXXL) \$22
Youth ☐ (S) ☐ (M)

Baseball Cap \$15.00

Comfortable, casual and adjustable 50/50 cotton/poly blend with Sanctuary logo embroidered on the front and website on the back. Two colors available.

☐ Denim Bill

☐ Green Bill

Tarra & Bella T-Shirt (4-color) \$19.00

Women's adult & youth sizes in green, toddler sizes and XXXL in royal blue

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL-Royal Blue)
Youth ☐ (YXS) ☐ (YS) ☐ (YM) ☐ (YL)
Toddler ☐ (2T) ☐ (3T) ☐ (4T)

Long Sleeve Organic Brown T-Shirt \$20.00

This long sleeve tee is 100% certified organic preshrunk cotton. Logo is imprinted on the chest in gold. Made by Anvil Organic. Unisex sizes.(XXL \$20)

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ Adult (XXL) \$22

Flora T-Shirt (4-color) \$19.00

Womens adult sizes in green, youth & toddler sizes in blue

Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL) ☐ (XXL)
Youth ☐ (YXS) ☐ (YS) ☐ (YM) ☐ (YL)
Toddler ☐ (2T) ☐ (3T) ☐ (4T)

Tote Bags Sanctuary Logo Tote Bags - \$10.00

Beige with blue lettering or beige with green lettering.

Commemorative "Jenny" Tote Bag

- \$15.00 Beige with 4-color imprint

Tarra & Bella Tote Bag - \$15.00 Beige with 4-color imprint

NEW Shirley Tote Bag - \$15.00 Beige with 4-color imprint

More!

Lots of other merchandise available. Please visit our Gift Shop online at www.elephants.com/estore

Follow the links on our website to order Elephant Sanctuary US Postage Stamps and "Ele-Checks." A portion of proceeds benefits the Sanctuary!



Elephant Sanctuary Merchandise

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DVD Videos



- "All of Our Girls...So Far" \$30.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "Tarra & Bella - The Video" \$15.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "Flora" \$15.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "Dulary's Homecoming" \$15.00 ☐ (DVD)
 "The Urban Elephant" \$30.00 ☐ (DVD)

Greeting Cards

Elephant Note Cards - \$10.00
 Blank inside; ideal for any occasion! Featuring illustrations of Queenie, Tarra & Dulary, Debbie and Frieda; Mixed pack of 12 w/envelopes.



Children's Elephant Art Cards
 Illustrations by Lewis County grade school students
☐ Mixed pack of 12 w/envelopes; Blank inside \$12.00

Elephant Photo Greeting Cards - \$12.00

Blank inside; ideal for any occasion! Featuring eight of our Girls in four different full color photos. 12 cards w/envelopes.

NEW!



Miscellaneous

Elephant Sanctuary Mouse Pads \$10.00

- ☐ Tarra & Bella
☐ Founding Herd
☐ Billie-Sue, Frieda & Liz



Elephant Sanctuary Eco-Friendly Turbine Key-Ring Light - \$8.00

Ultra-bright, two LED keychain fits in the palm of your hand. Batteries never need replacing. A convenient crank makes for safety-conscious and eco-friendly use!



Vehicle License Plate
☐ \$15.00

Flora Bumper Sticker \$3.00

- ☐ Measures 4" x 4"--here's your chance to take Flora with you everywhere you go!



Color Mugs \$10.00

- ☐ Ned ☐ Dulary ☐ Tarra & Bella



15th Anniversary Eco-Friendly Travel Mug - \$15.00

The Elephant Sanctuary 15th Anniversary logo imprinted on the side in black. Limited quantities available.



22 oz. Sport Bottle - \$12.00

Biodegradable BPA-Free Sport Bottle has a flip-top lid with ergonomic bottle shape and Elephant Sanctuary logo imprinted on the side. 9.5 inches tall. (Not for use in microwave or dishwasher safe.)

NEW!

Calendar Elephant of the Month



NEW!



Debbie T-Shirt - \$20.00

Debbie's beautiful calendar photo on a chocolate brown t-shirt. Shirts are unisex sizes; 100% cotton preshrunk

- Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL)
☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)

Debbie Gift Pack - \$45.00

This gift pack honors Debbie, our January "elephant of the month." Contains 1 pack of Elephant Note Cards, postcard of Debbie with Ronnie, Queenie & Minnie, "Our Girls So Far" DVD, a chocolate brown shirt featuring Debbie, and her biography.



Ronnie T-Shirt - \$20.00

Ronnie's beautiful calendar photo on a chocolate brown t-shirt. Shirts are unisex sizes; 100% cotton preshrunk

- Adult ☐ (S) ☐ (M) ☐ (L) ☐ (XL)
☐ (XXL) ☐ (XXXL)



Ronnie Gift Pack - \$45.00

This gift pack honors Ronnie, our February "elephant of the month." Includes the new Ronnie t-shirt, "Our Girls So Far" DVD, 12 blank greeting cards with Ronnie, Debbie & Queenie featured in the photo, Sanctuary Sunset postcard and Ronnie's biography.

11x14 Special Edition Calendar Photos - \$110.00

To order, contact ellen@elephants.com or call 931-796-6500 ext. 103

Each month we will promote the "Elephant of the Month" that coincides with our 2011 calendar. These numbered 11" x 14" photographs are complete with Sanctuary logo and certification of authenticity printed on Fuji Crystal archive paper. Postage is included. A \$3 handling fee will be added. Contact us for international orders.

COMING IN MARCH: Sissy & Winkie!

Elephants & Social Media

As methods of communication evolve, we have adapted by utilizing social media to connect with our supporters. The Sanctuary developed an official Fan Page on Facebook to ensure that supporters receive our latest updates and videos and to further engage with you.

Facebook was named the most visited website by Google in 2010. It is a social networking site that allows us to provide news updates, post photos and videos and interact with supporters. In August, the Facebook networking group "Nonprofit Organizations" chose The Elephant Sanctuary's Facebook community as their "Nonprofit of the Month."

Not only can we reach supporters with this additional platform, but our Facebook "fans" can easily share information about the Sanctuary with their friends. Next time you visit Facebook, search for "The Elephant



Sanctuary in Tennessee," and "Like" our fan page.

In addition to the Facebook page, we also have a YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/ElephantSanctuaryTN, to host all our videos of the elephants, and a Twitter account, www.twitter.com/ElephantDotCom, that allows us to post updates, which can also go straight to most mobile phones.

You're always welcome to stop by any of these social media sites and leave us a message or ask a question. Of course, we're happy to hear from you any way you choose to communicate—our phones and mailboxes are always open, too! 💎

Expanded Elecams Benefit Students, Supporters & Caregivers

The Sanctuary was one of the first animal welfare organizations to install a camera system so that students and internet users could actually see the elephants. Our original camera system has dwindled to two cameras, neither of which provides a very clear picture. Now, thanks to a generous benefactor, we can say, "Welcome to our new Elecam system!" The George Conner Trust gifted us with the resources to build a state-of-the-art Elecam system which will bring all of our elephants to viewers around the world.

Solar power was the only option to power the Elecam system, since running a power grid throughout 2700 acres of hills, valleys, creeks and ponds wasn't feasible. We also needed a network computer system with reliable access to the Internet. Last April, when our administrative staff moved into the downtown building that houses the Welcome Center and the future Education Gallery, we began installation of our computer network for the barns and offices, along with the towers and cameras throughout the habitat.

After a summer of erecting towers surrounded by elephant corrals with watering stations, we now have fourteen cameras mounted on eleven towers and three barns. At any given time, the camera system will be used in three ways: caregivers can locate and monitor the elephants out in the habitat; internet fans will watch the Girls in their

respective habitats; and, we can host a video conference with students anywhere in the world.

At press time, we are still testing the new system internally. Barring unforeseen technology hurdles, you should be able to go to the website now and watch the Girls in Africa, New Asia, or Q-Barn. Enjoy!



Sissy & Winkie in the Asian Habitat



Dulary and Misty

Trees for Trunks!

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee has partnered with another 501(c)3 organization, SoundForest.org, for a “Trees for Trunks” campaign. With a \$35 donation made through www.soundforest.org, donors can sponsor the planting of a fruit tree at the Sanctuary. Fresh produce accounts for about 25 of the 150 pounds of food an elephant consumes every day. A single fruit tree can yield up to 5,000 pounds of food in 25 years.



“We strive to be environmentally conscious, from our eco-friendly elephant barns to solar-powered Elecams, and being able to grow produce on site is consistent with that goal,” said Sanctuary Co-Founder and Director of Operations Scott Blais. “The Sanctuary is delighted to partner with an honorable organization like SoundForest.org. They are very motivated to make a difference.”

In January, SoundForest.org visited the Sanctuary to plant apple, pear, and plum trees, and will soon return with more varieties, including bamboo and fig trees. An apple tree can produce between 100 and 210 pounds of food a year, and pear trees produce between 170 and 200 pounds. In addition to economic advantages, having the nutrition-rich plants on Sanctuary grounds reduces fuel consumption.

“We are excited about the benefits the trees will have for the elephants and for the environment,” said Thomas Solinsky,

founder of SoundForest.org. “Sustainability and treating the earth with respect make sense. Planting trees will keep nature functioning at its best, creating a ‘sound’ and healthy environment for all of us.”

Through “Trees for Trunks,” donors have the opportunity to plant a fruit tree in his or her name, or in honor of another individual or group. As the tree grows, SoundForest.org will send the donor updates and images of the tree, as well as its GPS location to locate the tree using Google Earth. All types of trees are important in the Sanctuary’s habitats because, in addition to diet, they can be used for shade, browsing, and as enrichment toys.

Founded in 2008, SoundForest.org serves to make a positive difference in the world by planting trees and educating people about the benefits of trees. In addition to “Trees for Trunks,” the organization manages other projects, including “SoundSchools” to help schools become eco-friendly, and “Recovery Fundraising” campaign to help replant rainforest trees in areas devastated by natural disasters. To date, they have planted nearly 4,600 trees, including 2,500 trees at Bells Bend Park in Nashville, TN, following the destructive May 2010 floods.

To plant a tree at the Sanctuary through “Trees for Trunks,” please visit www.soundforest.org. ♦



Take our VIP Tour

By making a pledge of support (\$2000 or more annually for five years), you and a friend will be invited to take an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Sanctuary. We are now scheduling VIP Tours for May 14 and September 24 of 2011 on a first-come, first-served basis.

This tour is your opportunity to visit with Sanctuary staff and see how this operation really works by viewing our state-of-the-art facilities. This is an exclusive opportunity to be in the middle of everything without disrupting the elephants' daily lives. In keeping with our mission, the elephants will not be put on exhibit. If you are fortunate enough to see elephants at a distance, in the habitat, that will be an unscheduled added bonus.

For more information, please contact Lorenda at 931-796-6500 ext. 105, or email lorenda@elephants.com.

Please visit our website:
www.elephants.com

For news between *Trunklines* issues, follow us on the 'net!

eTrunklines: monthly email newsletter; sign up on our website or email cathy@elephants.com



"The Elephant Sanctuary
in Tennessee"



"ELEPHANTSdotCOM"



Please visit our website:

www.elephants.com

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization

*To improve the lives of captive elephants,
please contact your legislators.*



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